IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems~~,~~ by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume ~~to be~~of the volumes provided by ~~a~~the plurality of storage ~~system including the volume~~systems;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system;~~and~~

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems;~~and~~

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems; and

~~against each other~~selecting a volume based on the comparison to allocate the selected volume to the computer,

wherein the correspondence is obtained from the storage system connected to the management computer, and

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wherein the comparison of the characteristic information of respective volumes is also performed when a new correspondence is obtained from the first storage system.

Claim 5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems, by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to beof the volume provided by a-the plurality of storage system-systemsincluding the volume;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system;

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems;

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems-against each other; and

instructing the otheranother storage system of the plurality of storage systems, based on the results of the comparison, to provide to the computer a

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volume having the characteristic information of the ~~other~~ another storage system corresponding to the obtained level.

Claims 7-9 (canceled).

10.   (currently amended) A method of managing volumes of a plurality of storage systems, by a management computer connected via a first network to the plurality of storage systems having volumes connected to a computer via a second network and storing data used by the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between each value of a level and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume ~~to be~~of the volumes provided by ~~a~~ the plurality of storage ~~system including the volume~~systems;

obtaining from a first storage system, a first value of a level indicating characteristic information of a first volume having been provided to the computer by the first storage system;

referencing the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the plurality of storage systems; ~~and~~

comparing the referenced characteristic information among the plurality of storage systems; and

~~against each other~~selecting a volume based on the comparison to allocate the selected volume to the computer,

wherein, in a case where there are a plurality of specific performances, the comparison is performed using the highest level of performance.

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Claims 11-13 (canceled).

14.   (currently amended) A method of managing a volume of a first
storage system connected to a computer via a first network, and a volume of
a second storage system connected to the first storage system, by a
management computer connected to the first storage system and the second
storage system via a second network, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between a level indicating a specific
performance of each volume of the volumes and storage system
characteristics indicating a performance of a storage system including the
volume, for each of the storage systems;

obtaining a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the
first storage system, and a level indicating a specific performance of a volume
of the second storage system connected to the volume of the first storage
system;

comparing the storage system characteristics corresponding to the
respective obtained-levellevels of the first storage system and the second
storage system;

storing data stored in the volume of the second storage system into the
volume of the first storage system, based on the results of the comparison,

wherein the comparison of the storage system characteristics is
performed by obtaining mapping information indicating that the volume of the
first storage system is connected to the volume of the second storage system,
based-on-the-mapping-information; and

when the result of the comparison indicate that the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level indicating the specific performance of the volume of the second storage system is better than the storage system characteristics of the second storage system, storing the data into the volume having a specific performance, based on the storage system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level of the first storage system.

15.   (currently amended) A method of managing a volume of a first storage system connected to a computer via a first network, and a volume of a second storage system connected to the first storage system, by a management computer connected to the first storage system and the second storage system via a second network, the method comprising the steps of:

keeping a correspondence between a level indicating a specific performance of each volume and storage system characteristics indicating a performance of a storage system including the volume, for each of the storage systems;

obtaining a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the first storage system, and a level indicating a specific performance of a volume of the second storage system connected to the volume of the first storage system;

comparing the storage system characteristics corresponding to the respective obtained levellevels of the first storage system and the second storage system;

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storing data stored in the volume of the second storage system into the

volume of the first storage system, based on the results of the comparison,

wherein the comparison of the storage system characteristics is

performed by obtaining mapping information indicating that the volume of the

first storage system is connected to the volume of the second storage system,

~~based on the mapping information~~, and

wherein when the result of the comparison indicate that the storage

system characteristics of the first storage system corresponding to the level

indicating the specific performance of the volume of the second storage

system is better than the storage system characteristics of the second storage

system, storing the data into the volume having a specific performance, based

on the storage system characteristics of the first storage system

corresponding to the level of the first storage system; and

instructing the first storage system to erase the mapping information.

Claim 16 (canceled)

17.   (currently amended) A first storage system connected to a

computer via a network, comprising:

a volume connected to a volume of another storage system storing

data used by the computer;

a memory for keeping a correspondence between each value of a level

and characteristic information related to characteristics of each volume to be

provided by a storage system including the volume; and

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a control unit for controlling access made to the first storage system or the ~~other~~ another storage system from the computer,

wherein the control unit obtains the level indicating the specific characteristic information of the volume of the ~~other~~ another storage system, references the characteristic information corresponding to the first value among the first storage system and the ~~other~~ another storage system, and compares the referenced characteristic information among the first storage system and the ~~other~~ another storage system, and

wherein based on the result of the comparison, the data is stored into a volume having the storage system characteristics corresponding to the value of a level indicating the characteristic information of the volume of the first storage system.

Claims 18-20 (canceled).